

# SLAIN MOVIE DIRECTOR'S LAST LIFE A ROMANCE FULL OF MYSTERY

## FILM BOSS PLAYED 2 LIFE ROLES

"Taylor" Was "Tanner," Art Expert, Who Left Wife When Long Trail Beckoned.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—Amazing chapters in the life of mystery of William Desmond Taylor, the motion picture director who was slain in Los Angeles last Wednesday night, were revealed today.

Although he had become nationally famous as a film director and was popular among his associates among the film folk in Hollywood, it was often remarked that he had few intimates and that there was some shadow over his past that he never discussed.

Taylor Was Alias.

Taylor was well known in New York prior to about 1908 as William Deane Tanner, a cultured art connoisseur. At that time he was the manager of a prominent Fifth Avenue firm of art and antique furniture dealers. His profession brought him into contact with wealthy art and bric-a-brac enthusiasts and he had a wide circle of friends.

In 1901 he had secretly married Miss Ethel May Harrison, a member of the original Florodora company, and they had one child, a girl, now fourteen.

One day, in 1908, Tanner's friends and business associates were startled by his sudden and mysterious disappearance. His wife could give no clue to his probable whereabouts nor ascribe any reason for his action.

At the Fifth Avenue firm with which he was associated an examination of his books and business affairs showed everything to be in perfect order. An extensive search by the police and private detectives failed to yield any trace of where or why he had gone, and his family and friends finally set it down as an unsolved mystery.

It is understood that several years later his wife obtained a divorce and has since remarried a prominent and wealthy New York merchant.

Shanghaied, He Declared.

About two years later some acquaintances of Tanner, who were then living in Los Angeles, were startled one day when he suddenly called on them.

In response to their astonished queries about his disappearance from New York, he related that he had been shanghaied at night in lower Broadway taken aboard a sailing vessel bound around Cape Horn, and that it was several months before he reached some port on the Pacific Northwest coast.

He said he had gone to work in a clerical capacity on the transcontinental railroad that was being built through Canada to Prince Rupert on the British Columbia coast. He said that subsequently he had been working in the office of a mine in one of the Pacific States and from there had gone to Los Angeles, where he happened to learn of the presence of these friends.

Tanner, however, showed a strange reticence in discussing some portions of his adventures during the two years since he vanished from New York and did not explain why he had not returned to his family and friends.

Friends Did Not Get Facts.

The acquaintances whom he had brought out had known him in New York as a man of high ideals, excellent reputation and unusual culture, and they did not press him on this point. Nor did he ever clear up the mystery for them.

Tanner remained in Los Angeles for several months following his sudden appearance here and made a number of friends, who were charmed by his quiet, agreeable, well-mannered personality. He conversed fluently on art and literature and disclosed a considerable knowledge of the drama.

Without ever fully explaining his reason for doing so, he now had adopted the name of Taylor, and never was known as Tanner in Los Angeles. That was in the winter of 1910, when the motion picture industry was in its infancy in southern California.

Tanner, now Taylor, unexpectedly told his friends in the spring of 1911 that he had decided to return to Prince Rupert and resume his position there. During his stay in Los Angeles he apparently had not been in good financial circumstances, and it was assumed that he was returning to British Columbia because his funds were running low.

At any rate, he left for the North.

## NEW POSE OF ACTRESS QUIZZED IN SLAYING



MABEL NORMAND, Film star, who visited William Desmond Taylor, slain movie director, a short time before he was found murdered.

## Woman Uses Whip on Two Other Men for Dentist

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—Mrs. Bernadine Corley, Brooklyn, paid \$140 for a set of false teeth to Dr. Thomas J. Davis sometime ago, but she complained that they fell out when she tried to eat. So for two weeks she has been going around to see what could be done about it and found that nothing could be done, the dentist asserting that they fit perfectly and inviting her to sue and see what she could get.

Yesterday Mrs. Corley made what Dr. Davis hopes will be her last visit to his office. She had a dog whip and loudly proclaimed that she intended to whip Dr. Davis. The doctor was out, so she started in on Dr. Austin B. Colgan, an assistant. She hit him several times, upset some chairs, tables and dental machines, but finally two policemen took her away.

and in Los Angeles nothing was heard from him for a year or so.

Returns to Los Angeles.

Tanner returned to Los Angeles about 1913 and shortly after that obtained a position with a motion picture concern in Long Beach, near Los Angeles. To friends whom he met he explained that after remaining for some time in Prince Rupert he had come down to Seattle or Tacoma and had been playing thereabouts in several theatrical stock companies.

This stage experience evidently was the foundation of his success in the motion picture field. For a year or more Tanner, now known as William Desmond Taylor, was connected with the Balboa Film Company, Long Beach, and rapidly advanced to a directorship in more important companies in Hollywood. There his advancement to the forefront of his profession as a director is a matter of screen history.

Although the former Mrs. Tanner could not be located here today, old friends of Tanner who were located, recalled the facts of his mysterious disappearance.

Romantic Marriage Details.

The New York newspaper files of December, 1901, disclose the romantic details of the Tanner marriage. According to the published accounts at that time, the couple were married suddenly and secretly. The bride was Miss Ethel May Harrison, who was playing a part in the first "Florodora" company. She met Tanner, whose full name at that time is recorded as William Cunningham Deane-Tanner. He was a member of a prominent family in Dublin, Ireland, and reported to be heir to a fortune there.

Few of the company suspected that the beautiful Miss Harrison and Tanner were to wed, although he was known to be attentive to her. The couple had planned, however, to be married on December 26, 1901, and to make formal announcement of the event to their friends and the bride's relatives at a wedding breakfast.

Invitations for the breakfast had even been printed. Then a sudden change in their plans was made. The couple decided to be wedded at once. After a luncheon at the old Holland House Tanner and Miss Harrison slipped over to the Little Church Around the Corner and were married by the Rev. George C. Houghton.

Only the mother of the bride was taken into the couple's confidence. The new Mrs. Tanner returned to her home and Tanner remained at his bachelor quarters. They planned to let none of their friends know of the wedding until they had sailed on a honeymoon trip to Dublin. But somehow the news leaked out and then both Tanner and his bride confirmed it.

## SLAIN DIRECTOR WAS KNOWN IN N. Y. AS TANNER

(Continued from First Page.)

murder; Jesse Lasky, head of the film corporation by which Taylor was employed; and Charles Eytan, West Coast manager for the Famous Players-Lasky Corporation.

The hour of the inquest was changed to 10 o'clock this morning because of the number of witnesses summoned to testify. A coroner's jury of well-known business men has been summoned.

While police were exerting every possible influence to apprehend Sands, the former valet, who is charged with having robbed his employer's home several months ago, the shadow of a woman continued to reign a prominent place in the official investigation of the case.

Detectives at work on the mystery are unanimous in the belief that final solution of the crime will reveal that a feminine influence played a big part in the slaying of Taylor.

Sister-in-Law Testifies.

Officers today are planning to question Mrs. Ada D. Dean-Tanner, sister-in-law of the slain director. To newspaper men late last night Mrs. Dean-Tanner, at her humble home in Monrovia, reluctantly told of her relationship to the murdered man. She said of his assuming the name of Taylor after disappearing from New York in 1908, and said he denied his family name when she called to see him a few years ago at a Hollywood motion picture studio.

Mrs. Dean-Tanner said she had called on her brother-in-law to inquire if he knew the whereabouts of her husband, Dennis Gage Dean-Tanner, who mysteriously dropped from sight in New York four years after his brother had disappeared and taken up the name of Taylor. Mrs. Dean-Tanner said she never has heard from her husband since his disappearance.

Are an English Family.

She stated that her husband and William Desmond Dean-Tanner were members of a prominent English family of means. The woman is now living in humble circumstances and claims to have been receiving monthly allowances from Taylor.

Police are guarding with utmost secrecy clues said to have been obtained by detectives early today. They stated that startling developments may be expected within the next twenty-four hours, but held in abeyance any further statement until the coroner's inquest has been concluded.

Made Bank Deposit.

Adding somewhat to the mystery, it was announced that on Wednesday he had deposited \$2,300 in bank, and it was indicated the slain man had carried this money for a day or two before banking it.

Under a prompt solution of the murder is forthcoming, the police said a detailed investigation into the "dim and obscure" past life of the film director will be made.

This, it was said, would lead officers into activities of the dead man over a long period of years in England, in the Klondike gold rush, in the South Seas, in the Hawaiian Islands, at Panama and in the British army.

Charles Maigne, an actor, who was a close friend of the slain man, was closeted with Capt. Charles E. Moffatt, of the detective bureau, for more than two hours.

The police refused to discuss information given by Maigne, but it was said that his statement was considered of importance.

Officials opened Mr. Taylor's safe deposit box and found in it \$5,000 in bonds, besides much mining stock. No will has yet been found.

## MISS NORMAND TELLS OF VISIT WITH TAYLOR

Film Actress Says There Never Was Engagement Relationship Between Them.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 4.—Miss Mabel Normand moving picture star, has issued a second statement denying there had ever been an engagement between herself and William Desmond Taylor, the slain director. It follows:

"Mr. Taylor's friendship for me was that of an older man for a girl who liked the outdoor sports he liked and who was eager to glean a little enlightenment from the vast storehouse of knowledge he possessed.

"When I went to Mr. Taylor's bungalow, Wednesday evening it was in response to a telephone call he had made. I brought peanuts and some magazines, and newspapers and ate the peanuts on the way. When I got out of my automobile I told my chauffeur to clean the car.

Was Talking On Phone.

"Then I went up the steps. I heard Mr. Taylor talking to somebody over the phone, underneath the stairs, and I hesitated about going in until he had finished. Then I entered. He had been talking to a woman who had been of the income tax business for many of the picture folk, including myself.

"He came in and said he was glad to see me.

"It was about five minutes after seven when I arrived at his house. We talked about books. I am studying French, and as he spoke French fluently he was of great assistance to me.

"I looked around the drawing room and told him I thought he had changed his house furnishings. He said I hadn't been there for so long I had forgotten. I hadn't been to his house before for two months. He said the phonograph was the only thing new.

She Went Home.

"His servant, Henry, came in, and I asked Mr. Taylor if he had had his dinner. He said he had and that he had mine. I told him no, but that I was tired and was going home, as I had a studio call for 7 o'clock in the morning.

"He went with me to my car. He expressed surprise at the name of the magazine in his car, and some were light, I suppose, and he gave me one of Freud's books to read.

"He said he would phone me later in the evening, but he did not. When Edna Purviance told me he was dead I felt sure it was all some horrible mistake. I had known him for six or seven years.

"He was uniformly kind to every one. I never knew him to have an enemy."

Births, Deaths

Phone Main 5260 Until 2 P. M. Obituary Desk

BIRTHS.

LIECALLEN—W. Grant and Emily G. boy.

HAHN—Nicholas and Edith, boy.

ADAMS—Thomas C. and Edith, girl.

BUCKHANNAN—Joseph P. and Florence, girl.

DI VEGLIARCO—Andrea G. C. and Margaret H. boy.

TRIBLE—George B. and Nina E. Jr. boy.

MOORE—Joseph F. and Lucile S. boy.

GALLOWAY—Herman J. and Mabel, girl twins.

LITTLE—Nelson and Florence P. boy.

McCRYSTAL—Herbert J. and Hazel M. girl.

GULIELMO—Louis and Sarafina, boy.

MADELL—William A. and Rose M. boy.

ELLIOTT—Bryant F. and Jovett A. girl.

SHREVE—William A. Jr. and Doris J. boy.

SEARS—George A. and Grace I. girl.

KOO—Vi Kyuin Wellington and Hoey Lai, boy.

WATKINS—William P. and Marie R. boy.

WILSON—Albert, Jr. and Mary L. boy.

JACKSON—Jerry and Mabel K. girl.

WHITLOCK—William and Laura, girl.

MARRIAGES.

THOMPSON-WEILER—Harry E., 35, and Florence M., 22. The Rev. John N. Zydan.

BAKER-GOODMAN—Eli, 23, and Florence G., 22, both of Baltimore, Md. The Rev. G. Silverstone.

BUCHLEY-BRYANT—Desales, 31, and Annie, 23, both of Berwyn, Md. The Rev. H. W. Johnson.

VAN ALLEN-JENKINS—Leona, 23, and Hattie V., 19. The Rev. John E. Briggs.

HARRIS-RUBIN—David, 22, and Fay, 19. Judge Robert E. Mattingly.

ZALACZKOWSKI-YOUNG—John J., 21, Brooklyn, N. Y., and Pearl C., 20, The Rev. Irving W. Ketchum.

WHITE-PENN—John A., 27, and Margaret, 24, Philadelphia, Pa. The Rev. L. Radcliffe.

ESTRY-PRATHER—Ralph S., 25, and Ruth E., 19. The Rev. James M. O'Brien.

SCHAFER-BAKER—Samuel, 23, Little Rock, S. C., and Bosie, 21, Baltimore, Md. The Rev. T. Shaishelevitz.

DEATHS.

KIESCKER—Mary E., 40 yrs., 52 R. st. N. W.

GALLER—Robert E., 64 yrs., 1100 8th st. N. W.

JONES—Emma, 43 yrs., 1711 N. Y. ave. N. W.

METZGER—Thomas, alias Smith, 77 yrs., St. Elizabeth's hosp.

HAINES—Richard, 59 yrs., St. Elizabeth's hosp.

READY—Catherine—74 yrs., Providence hosp.

LANGHORN—Caroline—73 yrs., 1204 14th st. N. W.

HOERRICK—Augusta, 70 yrs., St. Elizabeth's hosp.

DAILEY—Mary M., 80 yrs., 146 Quincy pl. N. W.

KINGSBURY—George, 70 yrs., St. Elizabeth's hosp.

GUINN—John B., 48 yrs., St. Elizabeth's hosp.

MORGERETH—Charles J., 62 yrs., St. Elizabeth's hosp.

CICHELLO—Mary, 24 yrs., Emer. hosp.

CRAWFORD—Ellsworth C., 69 yrs., 415 G. st. S. E.

DEATHS.

BEADLE, Thursday, February 2, 1922, at 2 a. m., at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Matthew F. Halloran, 7 Owens avenue, Hyattsville, Md., MARY A. BEADLE, aged eighty-eight years. Funeral services at St. Jerome's Church, Saturday, February 4, 1922, at 10 a. m. Please omit flowers.

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## Will Attend Inquest Over Murdered Movie Man



DOUGLAS MACLEAN.

Noted film actor and son of the Rev. C. C. MacLean, former pastor of the Lincoln Road Memorial M. E. Church here, Young MacLean was a neighbor of William Desmond Taylor, slain movie director and his wife heard the fatal shot fired.

PREMIER REFUSES TO FORM

NEW CABINET IN ITALY

ROME, Feb. 4.—King Victor Emmanuel, upon recommendation of Tommaso Tittoni, president of the Senate, and Enrico de Nicola, president of the Chamber of Deputies, has requested former Premier Bonomi to form a new cabinet, but Signor Bonomi declined, according to the newspaper *Il Messaggero* today.

The cabinet crisis, which was precipitated Thursday when the Bonomi cabinet resigned as the result of parliamentary attacks, continued today.

## ZEROLA BRINGS ITALY OF OPERA TO WASHINGTON

Gives Pleasing Performance in Joint Recital With Marguerite Namara.

Zerola, Nicola Zerola, an opera tenor of lyric beauty of voice and dramatic force in ringing top notes, brought the Italy of opera and song to Washington yesterday in the joint recital with Marguerite Namara, a California soprano also of the opera, in the eighth of the Ten Star Concerts at the National.

Commanding in appearance, extremely likable in personality, Mr. Zerola is the stage artist, and his voice possesses a fresh sweetness that he uses in very lovely mezzo voice. And his full voice is all there, though such dramatic climaxes need the freedom of opera.

He gave an Andrea Chenier aria of Giordano and "O Paradiso" from Meyerbeer's "Africana" with pure Italian melodiousness of his native Naples, and certain choppy notes at full voice seemed so rather from the entirely inadequate support of the pianist who was apparently unacquainted with both singers and detracted such from the entire concert.

The weather was in both singers' throats, too, the "Mamma mia" of Nitti, by Mr. Zerola being throaty, but he gave a real "Figaro" song in the spirited and interesting "Barcarola" from Verdi's "Masked Ball," singing also "Povero Fiore" of Bononcini, and the Neapolitan "Strata Sullitana" of Capolongo. His Del Riego "Thanks God for a Garden" in English was too much of a concession to his American public, for his English is not effective.

Mme. Namara is piquant as actress, gives good dramatic interpretations and has excellent diction full of meaning, but her voice is nasal, with almost a phonograph quality, in her "Butterfly," "Un bel Di," though her "Jewel Song" from "Faust" was effectively interpreted.

Mme. Namara was at her best in the "Gavotte" from Massenet's "Manon" in which she accompanied herself at the piano. Here she showed delicacy of phrase and charm of manner.

Her "La Colomba," arranged by Kurt Schindler, brought out a depth of voice and big dramatic force, with a freedom that she too was

## Rabbi Simon Observes 18th Anniversary of Pastorate



DR. ABRAM SIMON

Pastor of Washington Hebrew Congregation, who is celebrating the eighteenth anniversary of his ministry. Last night he preached his anniversary sermon. More than 600 members of the congregation were present.

BUCKING A. E. F. GOAT

SENTENCED TO DEATH

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Billy, the goat mascot of the American troops stationed at Wiltshire during the war, is to die.

The dashing cavalry tactics which made him the idol of his war-time comrades have led to misunderstandings with small children on the road near the home of his peace-time master, Harold Jones, of Cheshill.

A policeman found the goat performing a war dance before four scared children and their mother promptly arrested him and requested his master to appear before the magistrate at Calne, where Mr. Jones was fined \$2 for allowing Billy go astray, and ordered to destroy him.

## PLOTTERS TRY HARD TO AVOID 'SMELL OF OIL'

New Documents in Money Cabal Against Mexico Reveal Fear of Identity Exposure:

By Universal Service.

Secret instructions of American moneyed interests to their agents to foment Mexican troubles were discovered today by Universal Service.

How the dominant oil coterie of the National Association for the Protection of American Rights in Mexico kept under cover until exposed by an investigation by the Hearst newspapers is shown in reports on file here.

A high official of the association in outlining plans charged various members of the association as follows, according to a report reaching Universal Service:

"We must be very careful to keep the smell of oil from the association, for if this were generally known, it would hurt the work that the association is trying to do."

The "work" referred to, is defined in the same report as that of inflaming the minds of Americans against Mexico and its president.

In Connally's Hands.

Information on this score has been turned over by Universal Service to Congressman Tom Connally of Texas. Congressman Connally introduced a resolution a week ago in the House, asking for a Congressional investigation of the scandal. The matter has been referred to the State Department by Chairman Campbell of the House Rules Committee.

With representatives of paramount oil and banking interests gathering in Washington to try to block at any cost the proposed investigation, Congressman Connally is understood to be ready to adopt summary methods of spreading the facts on the record if his resolution is hampered.

That the oil group, one of eight so-called groups in the national association, bore the brunt of expenses in disseminating propaganda and trying to stimulate enmity of Americans for Mexicans and for Mexico is established in the report referred to in today's disclosures.

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